



Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council State Plan Goals & Objectives ~ 2012 to 2016

GOAL 1

At every stage of life Vermonters with developmental disabilities and their families will have easy access to information about services and supports in common everyday language.

1. Identify key areas of information needs and the best formats to reach the most people.
2. Implement a sustainable and successful statewide model for independent information, support and advocacy for people with developmental disabilities and families to navigate service systems and get the information and services they need.
3. Work together with state agencies, providers and schools to provide consistent, accessible information to people with developmental disabilities and their families about key programs, supports and transitions.

GOAL 2

Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council will support more Vermonters with developmental disabilities and their families to have strong voices to ensure quality of service and freedom from abuse, neglect and exploitation.

1. Provide funding to support and strengthen a state organization led by individuals with developmental disabilities.
2. Support a sustainable family organization that focuses on information, resources and advocacy across the life span.
3. Improve and increase leadership training opportunities for people with developmental disabilities and family members.
4. Expand participation of self-advocates and families in cross-disability coalitions that address key issues that affect their lives.
5. Provide training and information on Vermont's disability service systems that increases the number of self-advocates and families who can advocate for themselves and be active at the local and state level to address access to services, quality of services, and essential rights.
6. Increase opportunities for Vermonters with developmental disabilities and family members to enhance their knowledge about specific disabilities and the disability movement as well as their ability to advocate for themselves through scholarships to attend conferences, trainings and other disability-related events.

GOAL 3

All individuals with developmental disabilities and their families will have equitable access to flexible, individualized quality services and supports.

1. Identify and develop an advocacy plan with at least three other key organizations to advocate for a robust system that provides quality individualized services, protects essential rights and addresses barriers to adequate funding to support people with developmental disabilities and their families across the life span.
2. Increase the range of choices by promoting at least two flexible service and support options for all ages across programs.
3. Support Development of an advocacy plan by at least two key family organizations to ensure that the integrated family initiative address disparities in access to respite and flexible supports, as well as disparities in treatment of different kinds of families ~ foster, natural and adopted.
4. Identify and promote at least two (2) housing and home support options that encourage independence; choice about where and with whom to live; and about how people spend their time.
5. Improve and increase opportunities to expand the level of expertise of a range of professionals and direct support staff to be able to deliver high quality service coordination, specialized services and other resources and supports.

GOAL 4

All across Vermont people with developmental disabilities will have more positive, supportive relationships that will help them be well and be part of activities that bring them into the heart of their communities.

1. More direct service and developmental home providers will be educated by self-advocates and supported to have a better understanding of the people they work for and be able to offer a broader range of activities that reflect people's interests.
2. Collaborate with at least one partner organization to educate physicians and other health care providers to have a better understanding of how to connect with people with developmental disabilities so that the Blueprint for Health can provide an increased number of welcoming primary care medical homes.
3. Outreach and education will support more community members to be able to welcome Vermonters who happen to have a developmental disability into a broader range of activities.
4. Outreach and education will support more bus drivers and other transportation providers to be welcoming and to be able to serve Vermonters who happen to have a developmental disability.
5. Identify and support initiatives to promote positive perceptions of people with developmental disabilities at the local and state-wide level.

GOAL 5

More Vermonters with developmental disabilities will be employed for more hours and more pay in jobs they choose.

1. Develop and implement an advocacy plan so that Vermont becomes an Employment First state through collaboration with key stakeholders.
2. Identify and promote best practices and programs to increase hours, pay and benefits of people with developmental disabilities.
3. Identify and promote best practices and programs for transition age students with developmental disabilities to increase their range of work experiences during school and their rate and hours of employment upon graduation.